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Vegetables

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FOREIGN NEWS ON VEGETABLES

January 19, 1933

THE WINTER VEGETABLE SITUATION

Mexican West Coast

Vegetable growing for the 1932-33 season on the West Coast of Mexico suffered great damage the latter part of December by the heaviest frost experienced in the history of the industry. Consul Frederick W. Hinke at Mazatlan in a telegram, dated January 13, reported the loss in carloads as estimated by the freight agent of the Southern Pacific Railway as follows: Tomatoes, total 2,850 cars; 700 in the Mayo Valley, 185 in the Yaqui Valley; Guasabe, Verdura, Bamoa, and Naranjo, 1,420 cars, or plantings of 7,950 acres; in Fuerte River Valley 450 cars; and 95 cars in other places. In the Mayo and Yaqui Valleys 650 cars of peas were ruined and 100 cars in Los Mochis, where 1,000 acres were ploughed under with a small production still expected. Beans in Sinaloa and peppers in Fuerte were a total loss.

Before the loss by frost occurred, shipments of vegetables into the United States were running below those of last season, and growers were confronted by many problems caused by adverse economic conditions, according to Vice Consul Thomas M. Powell at Nogales, Sonora. A cooperative association of vegetable growers had been organized in the States of Sinaloa and Sonora. This association had placed the financing, distribution, and marketing of the vegetables grown on the West Coast in the hands of the Wells Fargo Express Company in the hope that a more uniform system of supplying United States markets could be developed.

MEXICAN WEST COAST: Shipments of vegetables to the United States,  
December 1 to January 15, 1931-32 and 1932-33

Commodity	December 1 to January 15, 1931-32	December 1 to January 15, 1932-33
	Carloads	Carloads
Tomatoes.....	245	216
Green peas.....	508	191
String beans.....	66	42
Peppers.....	14	4
Mixed vegetables.....	24	13
Total.....	857	466

Market News Service, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Cuba

Winter vegetable shipments from Cuba began rather early this season, it was reported by American Consul Harold B. Quanton at Habana. Unusually heavy shipments of cucumbers went forward in the first half of November, which were well maintained through December, due perhaps to expanded acreage on the Isle of Pines, where the growing of this vegetable has been profitable in recent years. Tomato shipments were unusually heavy in November, exceeding those of

that month in 1931, but dropped to 426,631 pounds in December compared with 2,387,101 pounds last season. About 25,000 pounds of eggplant and 8,000 pounds of green peppers were reported in November, 1932, while no shipments of these vegetables were made in November, 1931; in December eggplant exports fell slightly below those of last season, while pepper shipments were 30,000 pounds above those of 1931-32. Total exports of vegetables declined during the latter part of November and continued through December, thus substantiating early estimates of reduced acreage.

CUBA: Shipments of winter vegetables to the United States,  
November and December 1931-1932

Commodity	1931		1932	
	November	December	November	December
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Cucumbers.....	8,800	649,495	18,075	737,251
Eggplant.....	-	50,008	24,801	49,761
Lima beans.....	127,251	765,010	69,680	526,180
Okra.....	20,516	54,665	16,219	43,593
Peppers.....	-	4,200	8,160	34,245
Squash.....	-	-	-	1,105
Tomatoes.....	16,290	2,387,101	72,924	426,631
Others.....	83,960	80,944	30,835	37,038
Total.....	256,817	3,991,423	240,694	1,855,804

Consul Quarton attributed the general decrease in vegetable shipments to the United States to several factors. Unfavorable growing conditions, storm damage, competition from Puerto Rico and other producing districts, and the problems arising from the stringency of the times have all tended to discourage the vegetable growers. He noted, also, a change in the attitude of the Cuban Government. A desire to make the island self-supporting has resulted in increased plantings of products for home consumption, and less attention has been given to export commodities.

Tomato crop prospects in the Bahamas

It is expected that the tomato crop in the Bahamas this season will be above average, according to Vice Consul Patrick Mellon of Nassau. The weather was good during the early growing season, and the quality of the fruit appears excellent, though rain is beginning to be needed. Acreage figures for this season are placed at 1,500 acres compared with 1,800 to 2,000 acres last year, but it is thought that production will exceed that of last year. Although some 17,000 pounds of tomatoes were sent to New York in November, they could not be disposed of at a profit. Consequently it is expected that the tomato crop will be marketed in Canada this season.

















